

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: September 10, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 31, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Emergency Removal (Start/Completion), Decatur Die Casting Site,
Decatur, Indiana**

The former Decatur Die Casting site located in Decatur, Indiana, closed its business in the early 1990s. Currently, the property is owned by Adams County. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requested the assistance of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in evaluating the threats posed by the materials remaining onsite. A site assessment was conducted on May 23, 2007. During the assessment approximately 100 drums and numerous small containers were found. Analytical results showed ignitability less than zero degrees Fahrenheit in one drum that was sampled. A removal action was initiated on July 26, 2007, and completed on August 22, 2007. Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) and Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors assisted U.S. EPA. The removal of materials took 5 days to complete. Two days for the staging and sampling of the materials and three days to dispose of the materials. Over 3,000 gallons of resins, oils, flammable liquids, corrosive liquids, paints, and water were properly disposed.

Contact: Fred Micke (312-886-5123)

Emergency Removal, Moorman Drive Mercury Spill Site, Jackson, Michigan

The Moorman Drive Mercury Spill site is located at an apartment complex owned by the Jackson Housing Commission, Jackson, Michigan. These apartments are a subsidized housing community. Mercury was discovered on an outdoor piece of furniture by a babysitter and some children who were intrigued by it and played with it. By the time the babysitter realized what the substance was, it had been spread around the yard, in a car, and tracked or carried into several residences. The Jackson County Health Department and Michigan Department of Community Health were contacted and responded to the site. Based on the initial screening results obtained by the health agencies, U.S. EPA was requested to assist with an emergency removal.

In late August 2007, On-Scene Coordinator Jeff Kimble and U.S. EPA contractors responded to the site and initiated an emergency removal action. U.S. EPA screened 35 residential units, removed contaminated clothes and shoes from 4 residential units, and decontaminated two residential units and one personal vehicle. All decontamination activities are complete and the residents have been returned to their homes.

Contact: Jeff Kimble (734-692-7688)

EPCRA Compliance Inspection Conducted, Concrete Supply, Mitchell, Illinois

On August 15, 2007, James Entzminger and William Sandstrom conducted an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspection at Concrete Supply, Mitchell, Illinois. Concrete Supply is a concrete supply facility. The hazardous chemicals at the facility include diesel fuel and fuel oil. A review of data bases indicated that this facility had not previously filed an EPCRA chemical inventory form. The inspection documented that Concrete Supply exceeded the minimum threshold level for reporting under Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA.

Contacts: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

EPCRA Compliance Inspection Conducted, Gateway Regional Medical Center, Granite City, Illinois

On August 16, 2007, James Entzminger and William Sandstrom conducted an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspection at Gateway Regional Medical Center, Granite City, Illinois. Gateway Regional Medical Center is a hospital. The hazardous chemical that they have onsite is diesel. A review of data bases indicated that this facility had not previously filed an EPCRA chemical inventory form. The inspection documented that Gateway Regional Medical Center exceeded the minimum threshold level for reporting under Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA.

Contacts: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

EPCRA Compliance Inspection Conducted, Mid-Coast Terminal Company, Granite City, Illinois

On August 16, 2007, James Entzminger and William Sandstrom conducted an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspection at Mid-Coast Terminal Company, Granite City, Illinois. Mid-Coast Terminal Company is located on the Port Authority property, off loads steel, and other products from barges and transfers the product to another source of transportation. The hazardous chemical that they have onsite is magnesium oxide. A review of data bases indicated that this facility had not previously filed an EPCRA chemical inventory form. The inspection documented that Mid-Coast Terminal Company exceeded the minimum threshold level for reporting under Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA.

Contacts: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

EPCRA Compliance Inspection Conducted, Ossola Industries, Inc., Granite City, Illinois

On August 16, 2007, James Entzminger and William Sandstrom conducted an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspection at Ossola Industries, Inc., Granite City, Illinois. Ossola Industries, Inc., provides refractory materials for the foundry industry. The hazardous chemical that they have on-site is magnesium oxide. A review of data bases indicated that this facility had not previously filed an EPCRA

chemical inventory form. The inspection documented that Ossola Industries, Inc., exceeded the minimum threshold level for reporting under Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA.

Contacts: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

EPCRA Compliance Inspection Conducted, Clean the Uniform Company, Highland, Illinois

On August 15, 2007, James Entzminger and William Sandstrom conducted an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspection at Clean The Uniform Company, Highland, Illinois. Clean The Uniform Company is an industrial laundry facility. The hazardous chemicals that they have on-site are sodium hydroxide and sulfuric acid. A review of data bases indicated that this facility had not previously filed an EPCRA chemical inventory form. The inspection documented that Clean the Uniform Company exceeded the minimum threshold level for reporting under Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA.

Contacts: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Midwest Flood Response

On August 24, 2007, Region 5 activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate direct response and assessment of future response needs in the wake of extensive flooding in the Midwest. Severe thunderstorms from August 15-25 over Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio brought heavy precipitation and strong winds, resulting in flooding, power outages, downed trees, and damage to structures. Five staff monitored incident reports and developed daily situation reports, impact maps and resources for possible field use (e.g., fact sheets, safety plan, and household hazardous waste and asbestos removal protocols). An Incident Management Team was put on standby, and initial logistics plans were made for potential mobilization to Ohio. Direct responses to oil spills occurred in Findlay and Ottawa, Ohio. On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) and the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) were doing reconnaissance on the hardest hit areas in Ohio to identify the potential for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 requests from

the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). National Priorities List (NPL) and Superfund Alternative Site (SAS) sites in flood-prone areas were being checked for impacts and risks. People from all divisions were staffing the EOC with Tom Geishecker running the EOC and William Messenger functioning as the Logistics Officer. As of August 30, 2007, no mission assignments were received from FEMA.

Contacts: Linda Nachowicz (312-886-6337)
Tom Geishecker (312-886-0755)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Regional Interagency Steering Committee Mitigation Subcommittee Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

On August 29, 2007, Glenn Cekus, Superfund Division, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section, represented U.S. EPA Region 5 at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Interagency Steering Committee Mitigation Subcommittee meeting, which was held at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Chicago. Fourteen representatives from various Federal departments/agencies attended. Some of the topics covered included an update on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) mapping, a presentation on designing and building safer dwellings, and an update on FEMA efforts to map tribal boundaries. Mr. Cekus gave an update on current U.S. EPA flood response operations and Response Support Corps training, and provided FEMA with an U.S. EPA point of contact for mapping Native American reservations. It is hoped that FEMA can thus avoid duplication of U.S. EPA work already underway or completed.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

U.S. EPA Air Monitoring, Emergency Response Course, Taylor, Michigan

On August 21 and 22, 2007, a two-day offering of the U.S. EPA class Air Monitoring for Emergency Response (165.4) was held at the Wayne County Community College Downriver Campus in Taylor, Michigan. This free class is sponsored by U.S. EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) and involves two-days of lecture instruction and hands-on exercises with current air monitoring equipment used for hazardous materials responses. The course was attended by thirty-three representatives of fire

departments, hazmat teams, and local environmental offices. Wayne County Community College's Downriver Campus graciously donated the three classrooms needed to present the course.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

First Responder Awareness Level/8 Hour Refresher Training, Leech Lake Indian Reservation, Cass Lake, Minnesota

On August 15 and 16, 2007, Glenn Cekus (Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section) and Ted Deeke (Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team 3) conducted First responder Awareness training in Cass Lake, Minnesota. There were approximately 32 participants from the Leech Lake band of Ojibwa. Instruction included classes in use of the North American Emergency Response Guidebook, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) plan writing, Federal regulations, hazard identification, and basic information on personal protective equipment and air monitoring. All students that participated for both days and passed the final exam were issued a Certificate of Completion. This was the eighth time that the Leech Lake Reservation hosted this training session.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

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